Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02442 011012Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------034832 011018Z /12
O 010951Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7482

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2442

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, FR, BE, SU
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: PARA 7, STATE 137343

1. WILL THE SUDAN CONCUR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE? HAD I BEEN ASKED THIS QUESTION AS RECENTLY AS TWO OR THREE MONTHS AGO, MY ANSWER WOULD HAVE BEEN A RESOUNDING AND UNQUALIFIED "YES". IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, MY JUDGMENT IS THAT THEY WILL PRIVATELY WELCOME SUCH A FORCE AS AN INDICATION THAT THE WEST IS AT LAST WAKING UP TO THE DANGER POSED BY THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. THEIR PUBLIC POSITION, HOWEVER, MIGHT WELL BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT.

2. SUDANESE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR ON AFRICAN MATTERS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DOMINATED BY SUDAN'S PROSPECTIVE PRESIDENCY OF THE OAU. IF SUDANESE PERCEIVE THAT ISSUE OF INTER-AFRICAN FORCE IS SERIOUSLY DIVISIVE AMONG OAU MEMBERS, THEY MAY WELL TRY TO STRADDLE THE ISSUE AND AVOID TAKING A PUBLIC POSITION. OTHER FACTORS IN SUDANESE THINKING WILL BE THEIR DESIRE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND (TO A MUCH LESSER DEGREE) LIBYA.

3. DESPITE THESE NEGATIVE FACTORS, HOWEVER, I THINK THE
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EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE SUDANESE PUBLICLY TO SUPPORT SUCH A FORCE IS WELL WORTH THE TRY. FOR THAT REASON, I WOULD HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO CONSULT WITH THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. I WILL PROBABLY BE ACCUSED OF MIXING APPLES AND ORANGES, BUT IF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SUPPORTING THE INTER-AFRICAN

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FORCE WERE TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUDAN AS A
STABILIZING ELEMENT ON THE CONTINENT, AND INDICATE SOME
READINESS TO ASSIST SUDAN IN ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES,
OUR TASK WOULD BE MUCH EASIER.
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